

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

210146US2PCT

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR

09/890260

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/JP00/08577INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
04 DECEMBER 2000PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
07 DECEMBER 1999

TITLE OF INVENTION

INFORMATION RETRIEVING APPARATUS AND INFORMATION RECEIPT APPARATUS, AND METHOD OF
RETRIEVING AND RECEIVING INFORMATION

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

Aki KOYABU, et al.

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (24) indicated below.
4. ☐ The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2))
 - a. ☐ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
 - a. ☒ is attached hereto.
 - b. ☐ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☒ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)).
10. ☐ An English language translation of the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)).
11. ☐ A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409).
12. ☒ A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210).

Items 13 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:

13. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
14. ☒ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
15. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
16. ☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
17. ☐ A substitute specification.
18. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
19. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.
20. ☐ A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
21. ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
22. ☐ Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail
23. ☒ Other items or information:

Request for Consideration of Documents in International Search Report
Notice of Priority / PCT/IB/304 / Drawings (12 sheets)

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR 1.53) 09/890230		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP00/08577		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 210146US2PCT	
24. The following fees are submitted:.				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) :					
<input type="checkbox"/> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$1000.00					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$860.00					
<input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$710.00					
<input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$690.00					
<input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$100.00					
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =				\$860.00	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)).				\$0.00	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE		
Total claims	27 - 20 =	7	x \$18.00	\$126.00	
Independent claims	4 - 3 =	1	x \$80.00	\$80.00	
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable). <input type="checkbox"/>				\$0.00	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$1,066.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. (See 37 CFR 1.27). The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.				\$0.00	
SUBTOTAL =				\$1,066.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (f)).				\$0.00	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$1,066.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) (check if applicable). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				\$40.00	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$1,106.00	
				Amount to be: refunded	\$
				charged	\$

- a. ☒ A check in the amount of **\$1,106.00** to cover the above fees is enclosed.
- b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **15-0030** A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- d. ☐ Fees are to be charged to a credit card. **WARNING:** Information on this form may become public. **Credit card information should not be included on this form.** Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:



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DATE

August 7 2001

210146US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :

AKI KOYABU ET AL : ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION

SERIAL NO: NEW U.S. PCT APPLICATION:
(Based on PCT/JP00/08577)

FILED: HEREWITH :

FOR: INFORMATION RETRIEVING :
APPARATUS AND INFORMATION
RECEIPT APPARATUS, AND
METHOD OF RETRIEVING AND
RECEIVING INFORMATION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to a first examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified
application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 22, lines 1-7, please replace the paragraph with the following:

As described above, the CPU 11 always stores the latest record/reproduction/viewing
history data in the RAM 13 by executing the above-mentioned record/reproduction/viewing
history creation processing procedure RT1. Further, when the viewer performs a display
operation of a "recommended programs list" with the remote commander 7, the CPU 11 of
the IRD 5 executes an EPG screen display processing procedure RT2 shown in Fig. 7.

Page 22, lines 8-16, please replace the paragraph with the following:

That is, in Fig. 7, when entering the EPG screen display processing procedure RT2, the CPU 11 moves to step SP20 to operate as retrieving means, and determines each program name included in the program history data as a retrieval key for retrieving a program. Then, the CPU 11 sequentially retrieves programs with a program name that matches the retrieval key, from a plurality of programs included in the EPG data S16, as many as to be able to be displayed on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8, in order from a retrieval key with a larger point out of the retrieval keys.

Paragraph from page 22, line 17, to page 23, line 3, please replace with the following:

Then, the CPU 11 moves to the following step SP21 to determine whether or not the number of retrieved programs has reached the number of programs that can be displayed at the same time on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8. When a positive result is obtained in step SP21, it represents that the number of retrieved programs has reached the number of programs that can be displayed on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8, and then, the CPU 11 moves to step SP22 to operate as display controlling means, rearranges the retrieved programs in the order of channels of the broadcasting stations, and displays the rearranged programs as, for example, a current "recommended programs list" as shown in Fig. 8 on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8.

Paragraph from page 25, line 19, to page 26, line 3, please replace with the following:

In the above-mentioned configuration, the CPU 11 stores history concerning the record and reproduction which have been performed, in the RAM 13 as record/reproduction/viewing history data. Then, when the viewer performs a display operation of the EPG screen, the CPU 11 retrieves a program that matches the viewer's preference from an enormous number of programs included in the EPG data S16, based on

the record/reproduction/viewing history data, and displays the retrieved programs on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8.

Page 27, lines 4-19, please replace the paragraph with the following:

Note that, although the above-mentioned embodiment has described the case in which a program that matches a viewer's preference is retrieved from currently broadcasted programs, and a result of the retrieval is displayed on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8 as a "recommended programs list" as shown in Fig. 8, the present invention is not limited to this embodiment, but may be made, for example, to retrieve a program that matches a view's preference from programs which will be broadcast and display a result of the retrieval on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8 as a "recommended programs list" as shown in Fig. 9. In this case, the viewer can set a recording reservation simply by selecting a desired program from the "recommended programs list" displayed on the display screen 8A and operating a recording reservation key (not shown), and time and effort required for a recording reservation can be further reduced because an operation for selecting a program as required conventionally is not necessary.

Paragraph from page 27, line 20, to page 28, line 11, please replace with the following:

In addition, although the above-mentioned embodiment has described the case in which a desired program is retrieved from an enormous number of programs based on record/reproduction/viewing history data comprising histories concerning recording and reproduction of programs, and displaying a result of the retrieval on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8, the present invention is not limited to this embodiment, but may be made, for example, to execute retrieval based on a history of recording reservations in the past and the record title list data S21 and display a result of the retrieval as a "recommended program list"

as shown in Fig. 10 on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8. In this case, a viewer can set a recording reservation simply by selecting a desired program from the "recommended program list" displayed on the display screen 8A and operating a recording reservation key (not shown), and time and effort required for a recording reservation can be further reduced because an operation for selecting a program as required conventionally is not necessary.

Page 28, lines 12-24, please replace the paragraph with the following:

In addition, although the above-mentioned embodiment has described the case in which a program that matches a viewer's preference is retrieved from an enormous number of programs included in the EPG data S16, and a list of the retrieved programs is displayed on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8, the present invention is not limited to this embodiment, but may be made, for example, to scroll-display character information concerning the retrieved programs on a part of the display screen 8A while displaying images of the program on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8 as shown in Fig. 11. In this case, the viewer can set a recording reservation by viewing the character information scroll-displayed while viewing a current broadcasted program of television broadcasting.

REMARKS

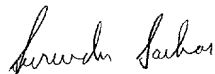
Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

The present preliminary amendment is submitted to correct for minor informalities in the original specification. The changes made to the specification are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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Marked-Up Copy
Serial No:

Amendment Filed on:

28/07/01

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 22, lines 1-7, please replace the paragraph with the following:

--As described above, the CPU 11 always stores the latest record/reproduction/viewing history data in the RAM 13 by executing the above-mentioned record/reproduction/viewing history creation processing procedure RT1. Further, when the viewer performs a display operation of a "recommended programs list" with the remote commander 7, the CPU 11 of the IRD 5 executes an EPG screen display processing procedure RT2 shown in Fig. 7.--

Page 22, lines 8-16, please replace the paragraph with the following:

--That is, in Fig. [6] 7, when entering the EPG screen display processing procedure RT2, the CPU 11 moves to step SP20 to operate as retrieving means, and determines each program name included in the program history data as a retrieval key for retrieving a program. Then, the CPU 11 sequentially retrieves programs with a program name that matches the retrieval key, from a plurality of programs included in the EPG data S16, as many as to be able to be displayed on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8, in order from a retrieval key with a larger point out of the retrieval keys.--

Paragraph from page 22, line 17, to page 23, line 3, please replace with the following:

--Then, the CPU 11 moves to the following step SP21 to determine whether or not the number of retrieved programs has reached the number of programs that can be displayed at

the same time on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8. When a positive result is obtained in step SP21, it represents that the number of retrieved programs has reached the number of programs that can be displayed on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8, and then, the CPU 11 moves to step SP22 to operate as display controlling means, rearranges the retrieved programs in the order of channels of the broadcasting stations, and displays the rearranged programs as, for example, a current "recommended programs list" as shown in Fig. [7] 8 on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8.--

Paragraph from page 25, line 19, to page 26, line 2, please replace with the following:

--In the above-mentioned configuration, the CPU 11 stores history concerning the record and reproduction which have been performed, in the RAM 13 as record/reproduction/viewing history data. Then, when the viewer performs a display operation of the EPG screen, the CPU 11 retrieves a program that matches the viewer's preference from an enormous number of programs included in the EPG data S16, based on the record/reproduction/viewing history data, and displays the retrieved programs on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8.--

Page 27, lines 4-19, please replace the paragraph with the following:

--Note that, although the above-mentioned embodiment has described the case in which a program that matches a viewer's preference is retrieved from currently broadcasted programs, and a result of the retrieval is displayed on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8 as a "recommended programs list" as shown in Fig. [7] 8, the present invention is not limited to this embodiment, but may be made, for example, to retrieve a program that matches a view's preference from programs which will be broadcast and display a result of the retrieval on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8 as a "recommended programs list" as shown in Fig. [8] 9. In this case, the viewer can set a recording reservation simply by selecting a desired

program from the "recommended programs list" displayed on the display screen 8A and operating a recording reservation key (not shown), and time and effort required for a recording reservation can be further reduced because an operation for selecting a program as required conventionally is not necessary.--

Paragraph from page 27, line 20, to page 28, line 11, please replace with the following:

--In addition, although the above-mentioned embodiment has described the case in which a desired program is retrieved from an enormous number of programs based on record/reproduction/viewing history data comprising histories concerning recording and reproduction of programs, and displaying a result of the retrieval on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8, the present invention is not limited to this embodiment, but may be made, for example, to execute retrieval based on a history of recording reservations in the past and the record title list data S21 and display a result of the retrieval as a "recommended program list" as shown in Fig. [9] 10 on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8. In this case, a viewer can set a recording reservation simply by selecting a desired program from the "recommended program list" displayed on the display screen 8A and operating a recording reservation key ([now] not shown), and time and effort required for a recording reservation can be further reduced because an operation for selecting a program as required conventionally is not necessary.--

Page 28, lines 12-24, please replace the paragraph with the following:

--In addition, although the above-mentioned embodiment has described the case in which a program that matches a viewer's preference is retrieved from an enormous number of programs included in the EPG data S16, and a list of the retrieved programs is displayed on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8, the present invention is not limited to this

embodiment, but may be made, for example, to scroll-display character information concerning the retrieved programs on a part of the display screen 8A while displaying images of the program on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8 as shown in Fig. [10] 11. In this case, the viewer can set a recording reservation by viewing the character information scroll-displayed while viewing a current broadcasted program of television broadcasting.--

12/8815

DESCRIPTION

INFORMATION RETRIEVING APPARATUS AND INFORMATION RECEIPT APPARATUS,
AND METHOD OF RETRIEVING AND RECEIVING INFORMATION

Technical Field

The present invention relates to an information retrieving apparatus and an information receiving apparatus, and methods of retrieving and receiving information, and for example, is preferably applied to a receiver which receives broadcasting waves sent from a broadcasting station and displays images based on the broadcasting waves on a monitor.

Background Art

Conventionally, a broadcasting station which offers a broadcasting service by the analog ground wave broadcasting has already allocated frequency band for use, to transmit its own program data using the allocated frequency band. A receiver installed in a viewer's house (hereinafter referred to as an IRD (an Integrated Receiver Decoder)) selects program data of a desired broadcasting station, from program data to be sent from broadcasting stations, and displays the program data of the selected broadcasting station on an external monitor by decoding the data, in accordance with a station selecting operation by the viewer.

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Incidentally, in an analogue ground wave broadcasting system, it has been proposed to periodically distribute data indicating contents of programs that is called an electronic program guide information (hereinafter referred to as an EPG (an Electronic Program Guide)), from a specific broadcasting station, for informing a viewer of programs to be provided by each broadcasting station. The EPG data includes information such as a program title, a broadcasting date and time, a broadcasting channel, and description of a program, and will be used to determine which program a viewer watches.

In this case, the IRD receives and stores in a memory the EPG data, which is periodically sent from a broadcasting station that transmits the EPG data, and reads out the EPG data from the memory and displays it on an external monitor in accordance with a displaying operation by the viewer. In this way, the viewer can decide a program that the viewer watches, by viewing the EPG data displayed on the monitor.

Incidentally, although the EPG data includes information on an enormous number of programs, a display screen of the monitor limits the display of the EPG data. It is the reason why the IRD can only display information on a part of programs out of the enormous numbers of programs, on the display screen of the monitor. Therefore, a viewer needs to perform a scrolling operation to retrieve a desired program out of the enormous number of programs, which makes the viewer do bothering work.

Here, in order to resolve such a bothering retrieving operation, there has been considered a method in which a keyword is inputted for retrieving a desired program from the enormous number of programs included in the EPG data, retrieval of the program is executed based on the inputted keyword, and a result of retrieval is displayed on the display screen of the monitor.

However, with this method, since a user has to perform an operation such as to input a keyword with a keyboard or the like, the method is not enough to reduce operation for retrieval. In addition, since the retrieval of the program is executed based on only the keyword, a program that does not match the user's preference might be retrieved.

Description of the Invention

The present invention has been achieved in view of the above problems, and is intended to propose an information retrieving apparatus and an information receiving apparatus, and methods for retrieving and receiving information that are capable of reducing operation for retrieving information.

In order to solve such problems, the present invention can easily retrieve a program that matches a user's preference, without inputting key information for retrieving information, by storing in storing means usage history information of a recording medium for recording information that is obtained through usage of the recording medium, and retrieving information that matches the

user's preference, from a plurality of pieces of information on the basis of the usage history information.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 is a block diagram showing an analog ground wave broadcasting system in accordance with the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a block diagram showing an embodiment of an information retrieving apparatus in accordance with the present invention.

Fig. 3 is a schematic illustration showing contents of EPG data.

Fig. 4 is a flow chart showing a record/reproduction/viewing history creation processing procedure.

Fig. 5 is a flow chart showing a record/reproduction/viewing history creation processing procedure.

Fig. 6 is a flow chart showing a record/reproduction/viewing history creation processing procedure.

Fig. 7 is a flow chart showing an EPG screen display processing procedure.

Fig. 8 is a schematic illustration showing an EPG screen.

Fig. 9 is a schematic illustration showing an EPG screen of another embodiment.

Fig. 10 is a schematic illustration showing an EPG screen of another embodiment.

Fig. 11 is a schematic illustration showing an EPG screen of another embodiment.

Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

Embodiments of the present invention will be hereinafter described in detail with reference to drawings.

(1) Configuration of an analog ground wave broadcasting system

In Fig. 1, reference numeral 1 denotes a configuration of an analog ground wave broadcasting system as a whole, transmitting apparatuses 2A through 2N as information providing means installed in respective broadcasting station transmit image signals and audio signals of programs via transmission antennas 3A through 3N respectively. A relay apparatus 4 relays broadcasting waves transmitted from the transmitting apparatuses 2A through 2N, to distribute them to a receiver installed in each viewer' house (hereinafter referred to as an IRD (an Integrated Receiver Decoder)) 5.

The IRD 5 as an information receiving apparatus receives broadcasting waves distributed from a plurality of broadcasting stations, by a receiving antenna 6, selects program data of a designated broadcasting station from program data of the received plurality of broadcasting stations, in accordance with a station selecting operation carried out by a viewer (a user) with a remote commander 7 as inputting means, and outputs for displaying the

program data of the selected broadcasting station on a monitor 8 as display means after demodulating it.

(2) Configuration of the IRD

As shown in Fig. 2, the IRD 5 receives at a remote commander receiving section 10 a command signal S1 to be transmitted with being superimposed on an infrared ray from the remote commander 7 (Fig. 1), and, after generating a command signal S2 obtained by converting the command signal S1 to an electric signal, forwards it to a CPU (a Central Processing Unit) 11.

The CPU 11 takes out a control program stored in an ROM (a Read Only Memory) 12 as required, and transfers the taken program to an RAM (a Random Access Memory) 13 as storing means to open it. Then, the CPU 11 is made to control each circuit of the IRD 5 by reading out and executing the control program opened in the RAM 13.

The CPU 11 analyzes the command signal S2 forwarded from the remote commander receiving section 10, and as a result, when determining that the viewer has performed a station selecting operation with the remote commander 7 (Fig. 1), generates a channel selection signal S3 corresponding to the station selecting operation and forwards it to the tuner 15.

The tuner 15 extracts broadcasting waves of a channel (a broadcasting station) corresponding to the channel selecting signal S3 from the broadcasting waves received by the receiving antenna 6 (Fig. 1), generates an audio signal S5 and a image signal S6 by demodulating the extracted broadcasting waves of the

channel, and forwards the audio signal S5 to an audio processing section 16 and, on the other hand, forwards the image signal S6 to a video processing section 17.

After analog-digital converting the audio signal S5, the audio processing section 16 compresses and encodes the signal by the encoding method based on the MPEG (Moving Picture Experts Group) standard, and forwards the resultant encoded audio data S7 to an audio decoder 19 via a multiplexing/separating section 18. After analog-digital converting the image signal S6, the video processing section 17 compresses and encodes the signal by the encoding method based on the MPEG standard, and forwards the resultant encoded video data S8 to a video decoder 20 via the multiplexing/separating section 18.

The audio decoder 19 expands and decodes the encoded audio data S7, and forwards the resultant audio data S9 to a digital-to-analog (D/A) converter 21. The D/A converter 21 restores an audio signal S10, which is an audio signal before being inputted to the audio processing section 16, by digital-to-analog converting the audio data S9, and output the audio signal S10 to the monitor 8 (Fig. 1).

The video decoder 20 expands and decodes the encoded video data S8, and forwards the resultant video data S11 to an RGB encoder 22. The RGB encoder 22 generates a image signal S12 by converting the video data S11 to a luminance signal and a color difference signal under the NTSC (National Television System

Committee) method and, at the same time, digital-to-analog converting the data.

In this way, images of a program selected by the viewer are displayed on a display screen 8A of the monitor 8 (Fig. 1), and voices of the program selected by the viewer are outputted from a speaker of the monitor 8.

Incidentally, in the analog ground wave broadcasting system 1, description data of programs that is called electronic program guide information (hereinafter referred to as an EPG (an Electronic Program Guide) data) is made to be periodically distributed from a specific broadcasting station for informing viewers of programs to be provided from broadcasting stations.

The EPG data is generated for each program and, as shown in Fig. 3, and includes information such as a program ID (Identification) peculiar to a program, a channel of a broadcasting station being a transmitter, a name of a broadcasting station being a transmitter, a starting time of a program, a duration of a program (or an ending time), a program title, a program subtitle supplementing the program title, a program description and program genre. The EPG data is used by a viewer to determine which program he views. In this connection, the program ID, the channel of a broadcasting station and the genre are indicated by code data, the name of a broadcasting station, the program title, the program subtitle and the program

description are indicated by text data, and the starting time and the duration are indicated by time data.

The transmitting apparatus 2 installed in a specific broadcasting station superimposes, for example, the EPG data for one week on a Vertical Blanking Interval (VBI) of a image signal, and transmits the data periodically everyday at midnight, early in the morning or the like.

In this case, the tuner 15 of the IRD 5 extracts broadcasting waves of a channel on which the EPG data is superimposed, from the broadcasting waves received by the receiving antenna 6 (Fig. 1), and generates an image signal S15 by demodulating the extracted broadcasting waves of the channel to forward it to a VBI slicer 25.

The VBI slicer 25 extracts EPG data S16 from the image signal S15, and transfers the data to the RAM 13 through a bus BUS to store the EPG data S16. In this way, the IRD 5 is made to renew the EPG data S16 stored in the RAM 13 everyday and always accumulate the latest EPG data S16 in the RAM 13.

In this state, when the viewer performs an operation for displaying an EPG screen with the remote commander 7 (Fig. 1), the remote commander 7 transmits the command signal S1 for displaying the EPG screen, to a remote commander receiving section 10. The remote commander 10 converts the command signal S1 to the command signal S2 comprising an electronic signal, and forwards it to the CPU 11.

When detecting that the command signal S2 has been supplied, the CPU 11 generates EPG screen data S17 by subjecting graphic processing to the EPG data S16 in the RAM 13 based on dictionary data such as characters, symbols and the like stored in the ROM 12, and forwards the EPG screen data S17 to a graphic engine 26 through the bus BUS.

The graphic engine 26 generates an EPG image signal S18 by converting the EPG screen data S17 into a luminance signal and a color difference signal under the NTSC method and, at the same time, digital-to-analog converting it, and forwards the EPG image signal S18 to the RGB encoder 22. The RGB encoder 22 mixes the image signal S12 and the EPG image signal S18 to output them to the monitor 8 (Fig. 1), and displays an EPG screen corresponding to the EPG image signal S18 on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8.

Incidentally, when the viewer performs an operation for recording images and voices of a program with the remote commander 7 (Fig. 1), the remote commander 7 transmits the command signal S1 for performing a recording operation to the remote commander receiving section 10. The remote commander receiving section 10 converts the command signal S1 into the command signal S2 comprising an electric signal to forward it to the CPU 11.

The CPU 11 is made, when detecting that the command signal S2 has been supplied, to record the images and voices of the program designated with the remote commander 7 (Fig. 1), by controlling an

operation of each circuit through the bus BUS. At this instance, the multiplexing/separating section 18 generates multiplexed data S20 by multiplexing the coded audio data S7 acquired sequentially via the tuner 15 and the audio processing section 16 and coded video data S8 acquired sequentially via the tuner 15 and the video processing section 17, and transfers the multiplexed data S20 to a recording media section 30 to record it in a built-in recording medium (not shown) as a recording medium.

In this case, when determining that the recording of the program designated by the viewer is finished, the CPU 11 generates record title list data S21 comprising a list of program titles recorded in the recording media section 30, based on the EPG data S16 stored in the RAM 13 in advance, and stores it in a flash memory 31. The CPU 11 is made to always accumulate the latest record title list data S21 in the flash memory 31 by renewing the record title list data S21 each time a program is newly recorded in the recording media section 30.

In this state, when the viewer performs an operation for displaying the record title list screen with the remote commander 7 (Fig. 1), the remote commander 7 transmits the command signal S1 for displaying the record title list screen to the remote commander receiving section 10. The remote commander receiving section 10 converts the command signal S1 into the command signal S2 comprising an electric signal to forward it to the CPU 11.

when detecting that the command signal S2 has been supplied, the CPU 11 transfers the record title list data S21 to the RAM 13, generates record title list screen data S22 by subjecting graphic processing to the record title list data S21 in the RAM 13 based on dictionary data such as characters and symbols stored in the ROM 12, and forward it to the graphic engine 26 through the bus BUS.

The graphic engine 26 generates a record title list image signal S23 by converting the record title list screen data S22 into a luminance signal and a color difference signal under the NTSC method and, at the same time, digital-to-analog converting the data, and forward it to the RGB encoder 22. The RGB encoder 22 mixes the image signal S12 and the record title list image signal S23 to output them to the monitor 8 (Fig. 1), and displays a record title list screen corresponding to the record title list image signal S23 on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8.

Here, when the viewer performs an operation for reproducing images and voices of a desired program with the remote commander 7 (Fig. 1) while viewing the record title list screen displayed on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8, the remote commander 7 transmits the command signal S1 for performing a reproducing operation to the remote commander receiving section 10. The remote commander receiving section 10 converts the command signal S1 into the command signal S2 comprising an electric signal to forward it to the CPU 11.

2 .
3 .
4 .

The CPU 11 is made, when detecting that the command signal S2 has been supplied, to reproduce the images and voices of the program designated with the remote commander 7 (Fig. 1) by controlling an operation of each circuit through the bus BUS. That is, the recording media section 30 reads out the multiplexed data S25 of the designated program from multiplexed data of a plurality of programs recorded in the built-in recording medium (not shown), and forwards it to the multiplexing/separating section 18.

The multiplexing/separating section 18 separates the multiplexed data S25 into the coded audio data S26 and the coded video data S27, generates an audio signal S28 from the coded audio data S26 sequentially via the voice decoder 19 and the D/A converter 21 to output it to the monitor 8 (Fig. 1) and, at the same time, generates an image signal S29 from the coded video data S27 sequentially via the video decoder 20 and the RGB encoder 22 to forward it to the monitor 8.

Note that, program logos of popular programs and face picture icons comprising face pictures of representative performers of the popular programs are stored in a CD-ROM (Compact Disc-Read Only Memory) 35 and, when the CD-ROM 35 is set in a CD-ROM decoder 36, the CD-ROM decoder 36 reads out data of these program logos and face picture icons from the CD-ROM 35 as popular program association data S35 that is associated with the program, and transfers it to the flash memory 31 via the CPU 11 to store it.

(3) Record Reproduction History Generating Processing Procedure

Incidentally, in the case of this embodiment, the CPU 11 of the IRD 5 is made to store a history concerning recording, reproduction and viewing of a program designated by the viewer (that is, a usage history of a recording medium) as record/reproduction/viewing history data in the RAM 13, and always store the latest record/reproduction/viewing history data in the RAM 13 by renewing the record/reproduction/viewing history data every time a program is recorded and reproduced.

Here, the record/reproduction/viewing history data includes program history data indicating recording, reproduction and viewing histories of programs for each program name, category history data indicating recording, reproducing and viewing histories of programs for each category name that classifies programs, channel history data indicating recording, reproduction and viewing histories of programs for each channel (broadcasting station), recording time history data indicating recording histories of programs in each time, and viewing history data.

More concretely, the program history data is represented by the number of points indicating the frequency, how many times programs in a serial program were recorded or reproduced after the first program in the serial program had been recorded {{program name, the number of points},}. The category history data is represented by the number of points indicating the frequency, how many times programs of the same category were recorded or

reproduced after the first program of the same category had been recorded {{category name, the number of points},}.

In addition, the channel history data is represented by the number of points indicating the frequency, how many times programs provided on each channel by each broadcasting station were recorded, reproduced, and viewed {{1ch, the number of points},{Nch, the number of points}}. The viewing time history data is represented by the number of points indicating the frequency, how many times programs were recorded for each time {{0 o'clock, the number of points},{23 o'clock, the number of points}}.

Incidentally, when the viewer performs a display operation of the EPG screen, the CPU 11 retrieves a program that matches the viewer's preference from the EPG data S16 based on the above-mentioned record/reproduction/viewing history data, and displays the retrieved program on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8.

That is, in Figs. 4 and 5, when entering a record/reproduction/viewing history creation processing procedure RT1, the CPU 11 of the IRD 5 moves to step SP1 to determine whether or not recording of the program designated by the viewer has been started, and repeats the processing step SP1 until a positive result is obtained.

When a positive result is obtained in step SP1, this represents that the viewer has performed an operation for recording a program and the designated program has been started,

and then, the CPU 11 moves to the following step SP2 and determines whether or not the program name of the program currently being recorded is stored in the RAM 13 as program history data.

When a negative result is obtained in step SP2, this represents that a program with a program name identical to that of the program currently being recorded has not been recorded, and then, the CPU 11 moves to step SP3 and determines whether the program is a serial program or not. When a positive result is obtained in step SP3, this represents that it is possible that the viewer will view or record in future a program with a program name identical to that of the program currently being recorded, and then, the CPU 11 moves to step SP4 and stores the program name of the program in the RAM 13 as program history data.

On the other hand, when a negative result is obtained in step SP3, this represents that it is not possible that the viewer will view or record in future a program with a program name identical to that of the program currently being recorded, and then, the CPU 11 moves to step SP6.

To the contrary, when a positive result is obtained in step SP2, this represents that a program with a program name identical to that of the program currently being recorded has been recorded, and then, the CPU 11 moves to step SP5 to add a point corresponding to the program name of the program currently being recorded and renew the program history data.

Then, in the following step SP6, the CPU 11 determines whether or not the category name of the program currently being recorded is stored in the RAM 13 as the category history data. When a negative result is obtained in step SP6, this represents that a program with a category name identical to that of the program currently being recorded has not been recorded, and then, the CPU 11 moves to step SP7 to store the category name of the program in the RAM 13 as the category history data.

On the other hand, when a positive result is obtained in step SP6, this represents that a program with a category name identical to that of the program currently being recorded has been recorded, and then, the CPU 11 moves to step SP8 to add a point corresponding to the category name of the program currently being recorded and renew the category history data.

The CPU 11 moves to the following step SP9, and renews the channel history data by adding a point corresponding to the channel of the broadcasting station that transmits the program currently being recorded, in the channel history data recorded in the RAM 13. Then, in the following step SP10, the CPU 11 store the record starting time in the RAM 13. Then, the CPU 11, in the following step SP11, determines whether or not the recording of the program has been finished, and repeats the processing step SP11 until a positive result is obtained.

When a positive result is obtained in step SP11, this represents that the recording of the program has been finished,

and then, the CPU 11 moves to step SP12, and renews the recording time history data by adding a point corresponding to a time ranging from a recording starting time until a recording finishing time, stored in the RAM 13, in the recording time history data recorded in the RAM 13.

Then, in step SP 13, the CPU 11 determines whether or not another program is to be recorded. When a positive result is obtained in step SP13, this represents that another program is to be recorded, and then, the CPU 11 returns to the above-mentioned step SP1 to start recording of another program in accordance with an operation of the viewer, and renews the record/reproduction history data recorded in the RAM 13 by repeating the same processing as the above-described steps SP2 through SP11.

On the other hand, when a negative result is obtained in step SP13, this represents that an operation for recording another program has not been performed, and then, the CPU 11 moves to step SP14 to determine whether to start reproduction of a program or not, and repeats the processing step SP14 until a positive result is obtained.

When a positive result is obtained in step SP14, this represents that an operation for reproducing a program has been performed by the viewer and the reproduction of the program has been started, and then, the CPU 11 moves to step SP15, and renews the program history data by adding a point corresponding to the

program name of the program currently being reproduced, in the program history data stored in the RAM 13.

The CPU 11 moves to the following step SP16, and renews the category history data by adding a point corresponding to the category name of the program currently being reproduced, in the category history data stored in the RAM 13. Then, the CPU 11 moves to the following step SP17, and renews the channel history data by adding a point corresponding to the channel of the broadcasting station that transmitted the program currently being reproduced, in the channel history data stored in the RAM 13.

Then, in step SP 18, the CPU 11 determines whether to reproduce another program or not. When a positive result is obtained in step SP18, this represents that another program is to be reproduced, and then, the CPU 11 returns to the above-mentioned step SP14 to start reproducing another program, and renews the record/reproduction history data stored in the RAM 13 by repeating the same processing as the above-mentioned steps SP15 through SP17.

On the other hand, when a negative result is obtained in step SP18, this represents that another program is not to be reproduced, and then, the CPU 11 moves to step SP29 to determine whether or not the viewing of the program designated by the viewer has been started, and repeats the processing step SP29 until a positive result is obtained.

When a positive result is obtained in step SP29, this represents that the viewer has performed an operation for viewing

a program and started viewing the designated program. Then, the CPU moves to the following step SP30 to determine whether the name of the currently viewed program has been stored as the program history data in the RAM 13.

When a negative result is obtained in step SP30, this represents that programs with the program name identical to that of the currently viewed program have not been recorded, then, the CPU 11 moves to step SP32.

On the contrary, when a positive result is obtained in step S030, this represents that programs with the program name identical to that of the currently viewed program have been viewed. Then, the CPU 11 moves to step SP31 to update the program history data by adding a point corresponding to the program name of the currently viewed program.

Then, the CPU 11, in following step SP32, determines whether the category name of the currently viewed program has been stored as the category data in the RAM 13. When a negative result is obtained in step SP32, this represents that programs of the category name identical to that of the currently viewed program have not been recorded.

On the other hand, when a positive result is obtained in step SP32, this represents that programs of the category name identical to that of the currently viewed program have been recorded. At this time, the CPU 11 moves to step SP33 to renew the category

history data by adding a point corresponding to the category name of the currently viewed program.

Then, the CPU 11 renews the channel history data by adding a point corresponding to the channel of the broadcasting station which is transmitting the currently viewed program, in the channel history data stored in the RAM 13. Then, in following step SP34, the viewing starting time is stored in the RAM 24. The CPU, in following step SP35, determines whether the record of the currently viewed program has been finished, and repeats the processing step SP35 until a positive result is obtained.

When a positive result is obtained in step SP35, this represents that the recording of the currently recorded program has been finished, and this time, the CPU 11 moves to step SP36 to renew the viewing time history data by adding a point corresponding a time ranging from the viewing starting time until the viewing finishing time, in the viewing time history data stored in the RAM 13.

Then, the CPU 11, in step SP37, determines whether to view another program or not. When a positive result is obtained in step SP37, this represents that another program is to be recorded, and this time, the CPU 11 returns to the aforementioned step SP29 to start recording of another program in accordance with the viewer's program, and repeats the same processing as step SP30 to step SP36 to renew the record/reproduction/viewing history data stored in the RAM 13.

As described above, the CPU 11 always stores the latest record/reproduction history data in the RAM 13 by executing the above-mentioned record/reproduction history creation processing procedure RT1. Further, when the viewer performs a display operation of a "recommended programs list" with the remote commander 7, the CPU 11 of the IRD 5 executes an EPG screen display processing procedure RT2 shown in Fig. 7.

That is, in Fig. 6, when entering the EPG screen display processing procedure RT2, the CPU 11 moves to step SP20 to operate as retrieving means, and determines each program name included in the program history data as a retrieval key for retrieving a program. Then, the CPU 11 sequentially retrieves programs with a program name that matches the retrieval key, from a plurality of programs included in the EPG data S16, as many as to be able to be displayed on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8, in order from a retrieval key with a larger point out of the retrieval keys.

Then, the CPU 11 moves to the following step SP21 to determine whether or not the number of retrieved programs has reached the number of programs that can be displayed at the same time on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8. When a positive result is obtained in step SP21, it represents that the number of retrieved programs has reached the number of programs that can be displayed on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8, and then, the CPU 11 moves to step SP22 to operate as display controlling means, rearranges the retrieved programs in the order of channels of the

broadcasting stations, and displays the rearranged programs as, for example, a current "recommended programs list" as shown in Fig. 7 on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8.

On the other hand, when a negative result is obtained in step SP21, this represents that the number of retrieved programs has not reached the number of programs that can be displayed on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8, and then, the CPU 11 moves to step SP23, determines a recording time with a largest number of points from the recording time history data as a retrieval key, and retrieves a program to be broadcast in the recording time which is determined to be the retrieval key, from a plurality of programs included in the EPG data S16.

Then, the CPU 11 extracts a channel with the largest number of points from the channel history data and, at the same time, extracts a category name with the largest number of points from the category history data, to determine the extracted channel and the extracted category name as retrieval keys, and retrieves a program that is broadcasted by a broadcasting station of the determined channel and is categorized in the determined category name, from the programs retrieved with the recording time as a retrieval key.

The CPU 11 moves to the following step SP24 and determines whether or not the number of programs retrieved in steps SP20 and SP23 has reached the number of programs that can be displayed on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8. When a positive result is

On the other hand, when a negative result is obtained in step SP25, this represents that it is impossible to continuously execute program retrieval, and then, the CPU 11 moves to step SP22, rearranges the retrieved programs in the order of channels of the broadcasting stations, and displays the rearranged programs as a "recommended program list" on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8.

In the following step SP26, the CPU 11 determines whether or not the viewer has performed a selection operation of a program from the "recommended programs list" displayed on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8, and repeats the processing step SP26 until a positive result is obtained.

When a positive result is obtained in step SP26, this represents that the viewer has selected a desired program, and then, the CPU 11 moves to step SP27 and views or records the selected program. Then, the CPU 11 moves to step SP28 to finish the processing procedure.

(4) Operation and Effect of the Embodiment

In the above-mentioned configuration, the CPU 11 stores history concerning the record and reproduction which have been performed, in the RAM 13 as record/reproduction/viewing history data. Then, when the viewer performs a display operation of the EPG screen, the CPU 11 retrieves a program that matches the viewer's preference from an enormous number of programs included in the EPG data S16, based on the record/reproduction history data,

obtained in step SP24, this represents that the number of retrieved programs has reached the number of programs that can be displayed on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8, and then, the CPU 11 moves to step SP22, rearranges the retrieved programs in the order of channels of the broadcasting stations, and displays the rearranged programs as a "recommended program list" on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8.

On the other hand, when a negative result is obtained in step SP24, this represents that the number of retrieved programs has not reached the number of programs that can be displayed on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8, and then, the CPU 11 moves to step SP25, and determines whether or not it is possible to execute further program retrieval for the programs that have not been retrieved from the EPG data S16.

When a positive result is obtained in step SP25, this represents that it is possible to further execute program retrieval, and then, the CPU 11 moves to step SP23, determines a recording time with the largest number of points from the recording times that have not been retrieved, included in the recording time history data, as a retrieval key to execute retrieval, and further determines a channel and a category name with the largest number of points from the channels and category names that have not been retrieved, included in the channel retrieval history data and the category history data respectively, as retrieval keys to execute retrieval.

and displays the retrieved programs on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8.

In this way, the CPU 11 can reduce operations required for retrieval because it is not necessary to input in advance a keyword for retrieving a program by storing record/reproduction/viewing history data representing the viewer's preference in the RAM 13, and retrieving a program that matches the viewer's preference, from an enormous number of programs based on the record/reproduction/viewing history data, in accordance with the display operation by the viewer, and at the same time, can avoid a program that does not match the viewer's preference from being retrieved, unlike the case in which a program is retrieved based only on a keyword.

In this connection, it can be generally determined that a program that has been recorded and recorded/reproduced has higher possibility of being preferred by a viewer than a program that has been simply viewed. Therefore, a history concerning record and reproduction of a program represents the viewer's preference more accurately than a history concerning viewing of programs.

With the above-mentioned configuration, by storing record/reproduction/viewing history data indicating the viewer's preference in the RAM 13 and retrieving a desired program from an enormous number of programs based on the record/reproduction/viewing history data, a viewer can easily retrieve a program that matches his preference, without inputting

in advance a keyword for retrieving a program, hence time and effort in retrieving a program can be further reduced.

(5) Other Embodiments

Note that, although the above-mentioned embodiment has described the case in which a program that matches a viewer's preference is retrieved from currently broadcasted programs, and a result of the retrieval is displayed on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8 as a "recommended programs list" as shown in Fig. 7, the present invention is not limited to this embodiment, but may be made, for example, to retrieve a program that matches a view's preference from programs which will be broadcast and display a result of the retrieval on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8 as a "recommended programs list" as shown in Fig. 8. In this case, the viewer can set a recording reservation simply by selecting a desired program from the "recommended programs list" displayed on the display screen 8A and operating a recording reservation key (not shown), and time and effort required for a recording reservation can be further reduced because an operation for selecting a program as required conventionally is not necessary.

In addition, although the above-mentioned embodiment has described the case in which a desired program is retrieved from an enormous number of programs based on record/reproduction/viewing history data comprising histories concerning recording and reproduction of programs, and displaying a result of the retrieval on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8, the present invention

is not limited to this embodiment, but may be made, for example, to execute retrieval based on a history of recording reservations in the past and the record title list data S21 and display a result of the retrieval as a "recommended program list" as shown in Fig. 9 on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8. In this case, a viewer can set a recording reservation simply by selecting a desired program from the "recommended program list" displayed on the display screen 8A and operating a recording reservation key (now shown), and time and effort required for a recording reservation can be further reduced because an operation for selecting a program as required conventionally is not necessary.

In addition, although the above-mentioned embodiment has described the case in which a program that matches a viewer's preference is retrieved from an enormous number of programs included in the EPG data S16, and a list of the retrieved programs is displayed on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8, the present invention is not limited to this embodiment, but may be made, for example, to scroll-display character information concerning the retrieved programs on a part of the display screen 8A while displaying images of the program on the display screen 8A of the monitor 8 as shown in Fig. 10. In this case, the viewer can set a recording reservation by viewing the character information scroll-displayed while viewing a current broadcasted program of television broadcasting.

In addition, although the above-mentioned embodiment has described the case in which a list of program titles is displayed on the display screen 8A, the present invention is not limited to this embodiment, but can be widely applied to a case in which heading information indicating contents of predetermined information is displayed on the display screen 8A.

Moreover, although the above-mentioned embodiment has described the case in which information received in the IRD 5 of the analog ground wave broadcasting system 1 is displayed, the present invention is not limited to this embodiment, but may be widely applied to a case in which information sent by the digital satellite broadcasting, the wire broadcasting or the Internet is displayed.

Industrial Applicability

A receiving apparatus can be used for the case of receiving broadcasting waves sent from a broadcasting station and displaying images based on the broadcasting waves on a monitor.

Claims

1. An information retrieving apparatus for retrieving desired information from a plurality of information provided by predetermined information providing means, comprising:

storing means for storing usage history information of a recording medium for recording said information, which is obtained by using said recording medium; and

retrieving means for retrieving information that matches a user's preference from said plurality of information based on said usage history information.

2. The information retrieving apparatus according to Claim 1, comprising

display controlling means for displaying header information indicating contents of said retrieved information on display means.

3. The information retrieving apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein

said usage history information comprises record history information of information, which is obtained by recording said information provided by said information providing means, in said recording medium.

4. The information retrieving apparatus according to Claim 1,
wherein

said usage history information comprises reproduction history
information of information, which is obtained by reproducing said
information recorded in said recording medium.

5. The information retrieving apparatus according to Claim 1,
wherein

said usage history information comprises record/reproduction
history information of information, which is obtained by recording
or reproducing said information provided by said information
providing means, in/from said recording medium.

6. The information retrieving apparatus according to Claim 1,
wherein

said information comprises information of broadcasting
programs.

7. An information receiving apparatus for receiving desired
information by retrieving said information from a plurality of
information which is transmitted from predetermined information
transmitting means, comprising:

storing means for storing usage history information of
recording medium for recording said information, which is obtained
by using said recording medium; and

retrieving means for retrieving information that matches a user's preference from said plurality of information based on said usage history information.

8. The information receiving apparatus according to Claim 7, comprising

display controlling means for displaying header information indicating contents of said retrieved information on display means.

9. The information receiving apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein

said usage history information comprises record history information of information, which is obtained by recording said information transmitted by said information transmitting means, in said recording medium.

10. The information receiving apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein

said usage history information comprises reproduction history information of information, which is obtained by reproducing said information recorded in said recording medium.

11. The information receiving apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein

said usage history information comprises viewing history information of information, which is obtained by viewing said information recorded in said recording medium.

12. The information receiving apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein

said usage history information comprises record/reproduction/viewing history information of information, which is obtained by recording, reproducing and viewing said information transmitted by said information transmitting means, in/from said recording medium.

13. The information receiving apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein

said information comprises information of broadcasting programs.

14. An information retrieving method of retrieving desired information from a plurality of information to be provided by predetermined information providing means, wherein:

usage history information of recording medium for recording said information, which is obtained by using said recording medium is stored in storing means; and

information that matches a user's preference is retrieved from said plurality of information based on said usage history information.

15. The information retrieving method according to Claim 14, wherein

header information indicating contents of said retrieved information is displayed on display means.

16. The information retrieving method according to Claim 14, wherein

said usage history information comprises record history information of information, which is obtained by recording said information provided by said information providing means, in said recording medium.

17. The information retrieving method according to Claim 14, wherein

said usage history information comprises reproduction history information of information, which is obtained by reproducing said information recorded in said recording medium.

18. The information retrieving method according to Claim 14, wherein

[illegible]

said usage history information comprises
record/reproduction/viewing history information of information,
which is obtained by recording, reproducing and viewing said
information provided by said information providing means, in/from
said recording medium.

said information comprises information of broadcasting programs.

21. An information receiving method of receiving desired information by retrieving said information from a plurality of information to be transmitted from predetermined information transmitting means, wherein:

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information that matches a user's preference is retrieved from said plurality of information based on said usage history information.

22. The information receiving method according to Claim 21, wherein

header information indicating contents of said retrieved information is displayed on display means.

23. The information receiving method according to Claim 21, wherein

said usage history information comprises record history information of information, which is obtained by recording said information transmitted by said information transmitting means, in said recording medium.

24. The information receiving method according to Claim 21, wherein

said usage history information comprises reproduction history information of information, which is obtained by reproducing said information recorded in said recording medium .

25. The information receiving method according to Claim 21, wherein

said usage history information comprises viewing history information of information, which is obtained by viewing said information recorded in said recording medium.

26. The information receiving method according to Claim 21, wherein

said usage history information comprises record/reproduction/viewing history information of information, which is obtained by recording, reproducing and viewing said information transmitted by said information transmitting means, in/from said recording medium.

27. The information receiving method according to Claim 21, wherein

said information comprises information of broadcasting programs.

ABSTRACT

By storing usage history information of a recording medium for recording information, which is obtained by using the recording medium, in storing means 13, and retrieving information that matches a user's preference from a plurality of information based on the usage history information, a program that matches the user's preference can be easily retrieved without inputting key information for retrieving information, hence time and effort in retrieving information can be further reduced.

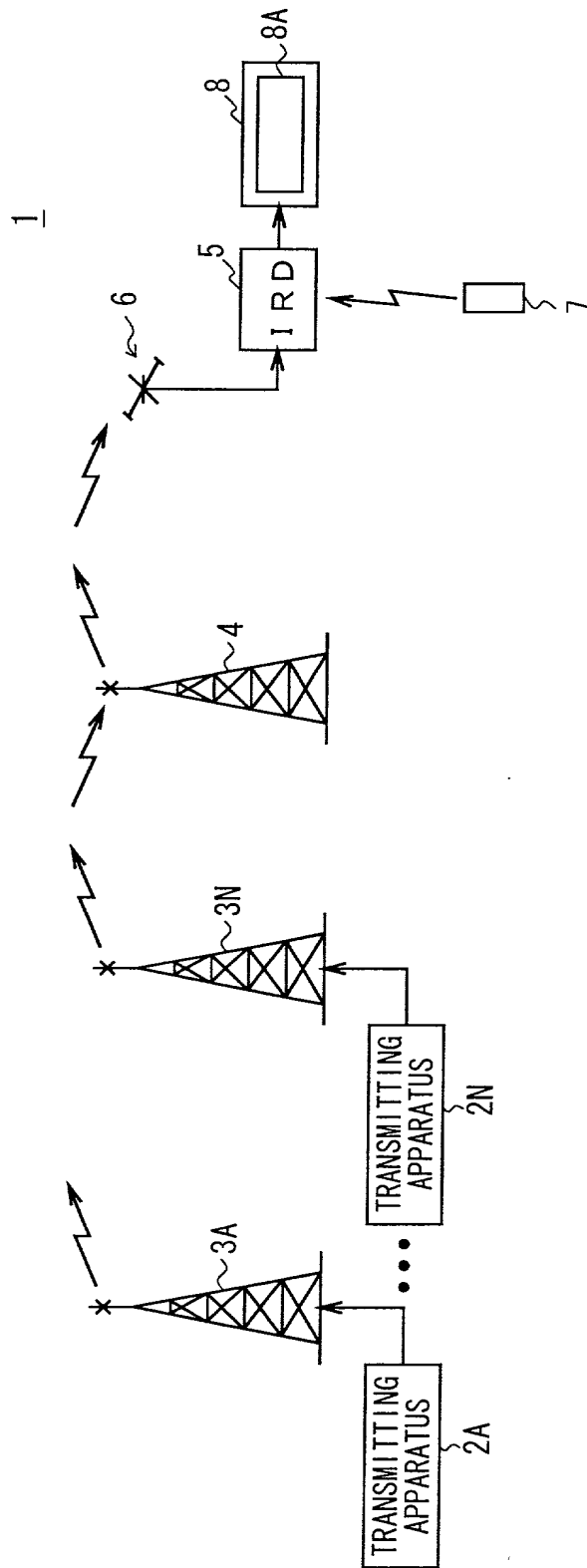


FIG. 1

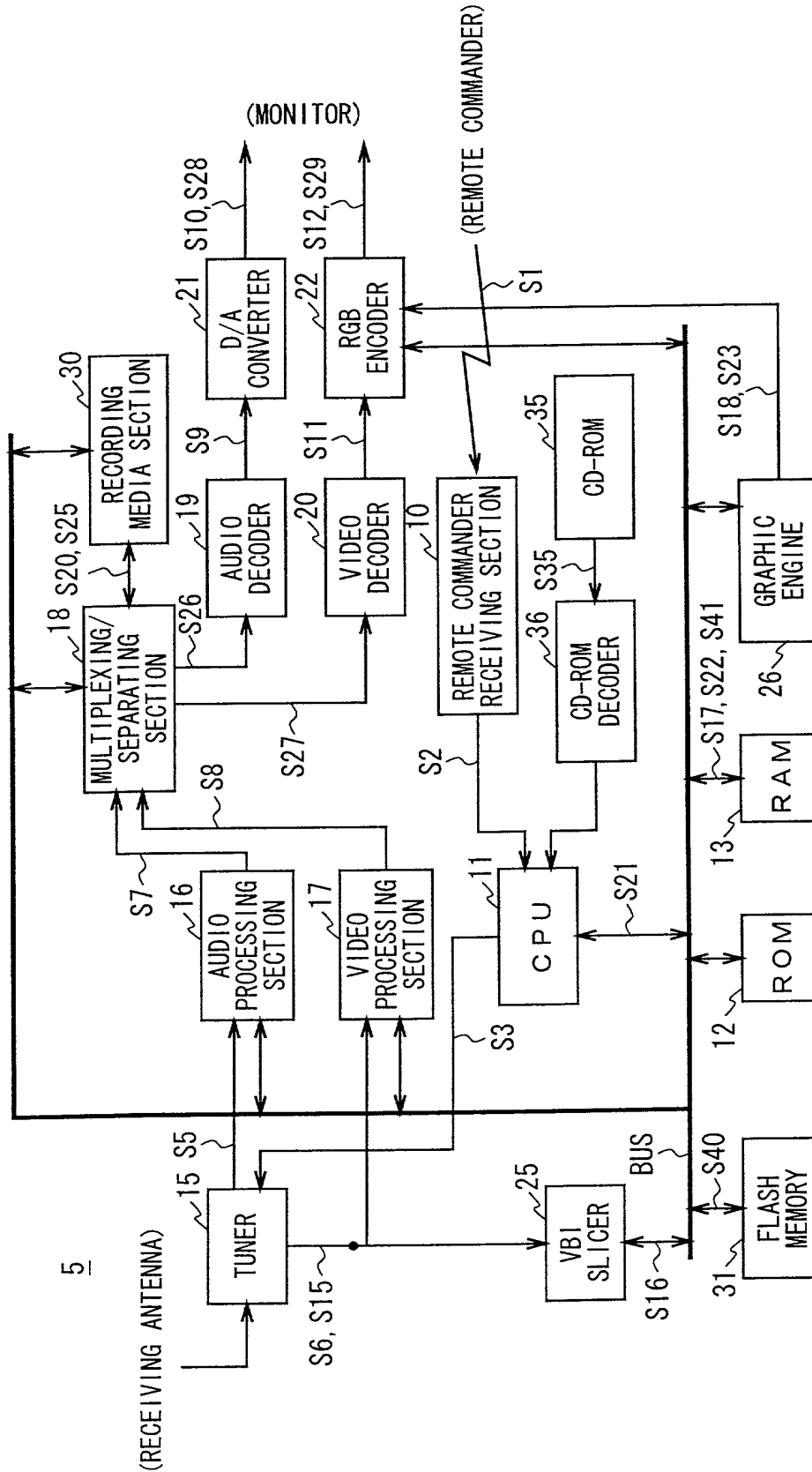


FIG. 2

PROGRAM ID	PROGRAM ID DATA (CODE)
CHANNEL OF BROADCASTING STATION	CHANNEL DATA (CODE)
NAME OF BROADCASTING STATION	TEXT DATA
STARTING TIME	TIME DATA
DURATION (OR ENDING TIME)	TIME DATA
PROGRAM TITLE	TEXT DATA
PROGRAM SUBTITLE	TEXT DATA
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	TEXT DATA
GENRE	GENRE DATA (CODE)

FIG. 3

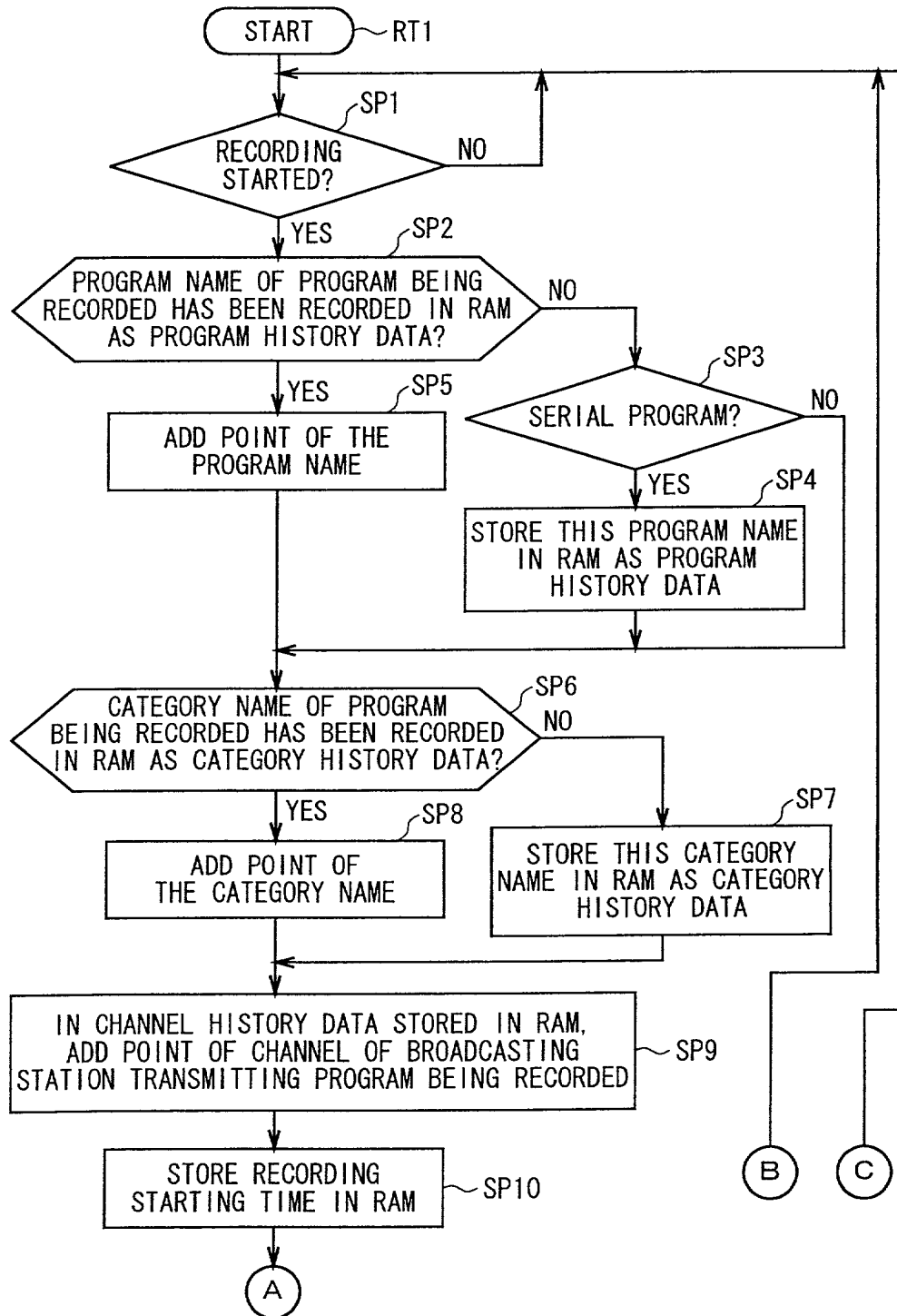


FIG. 4

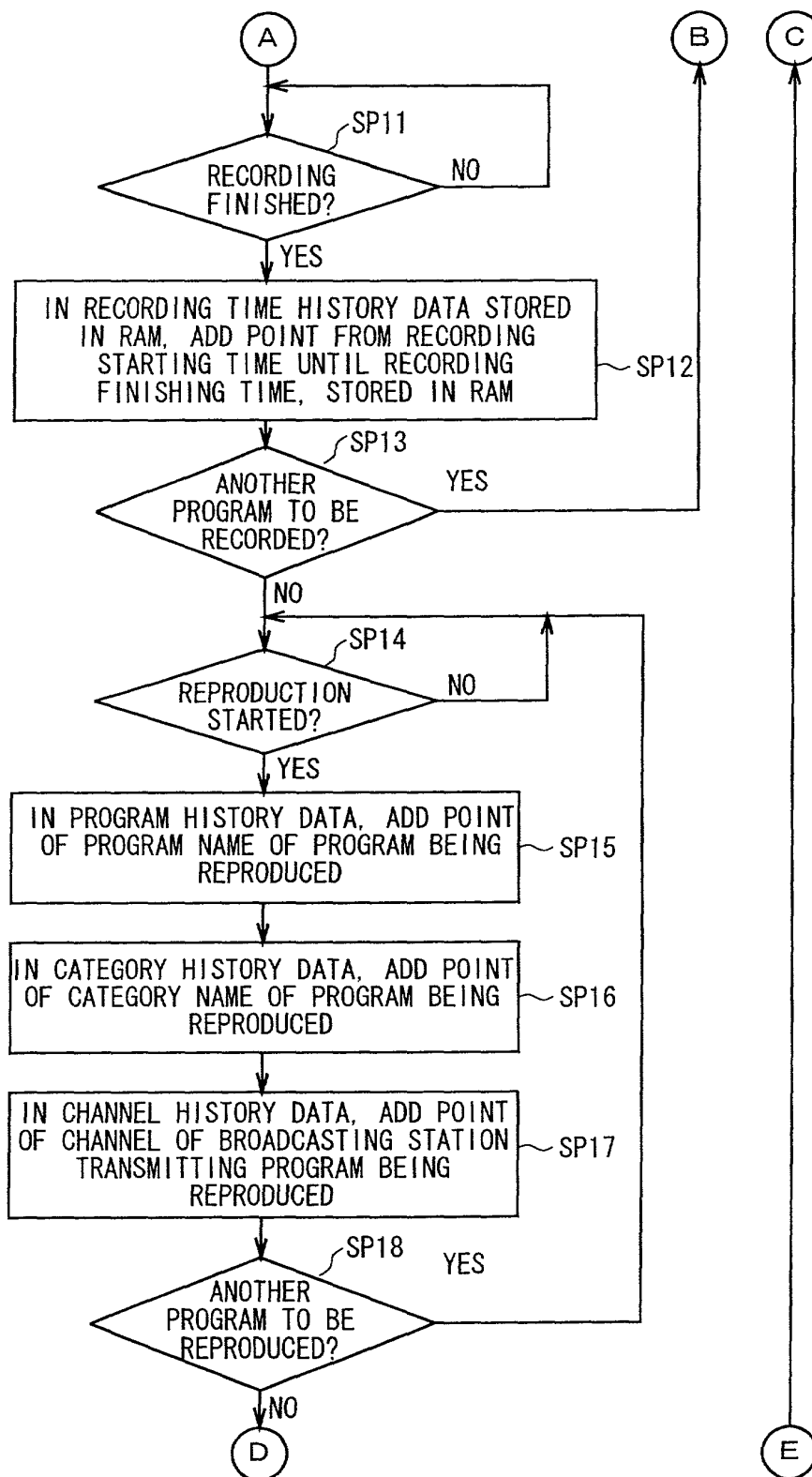


FIG. 5

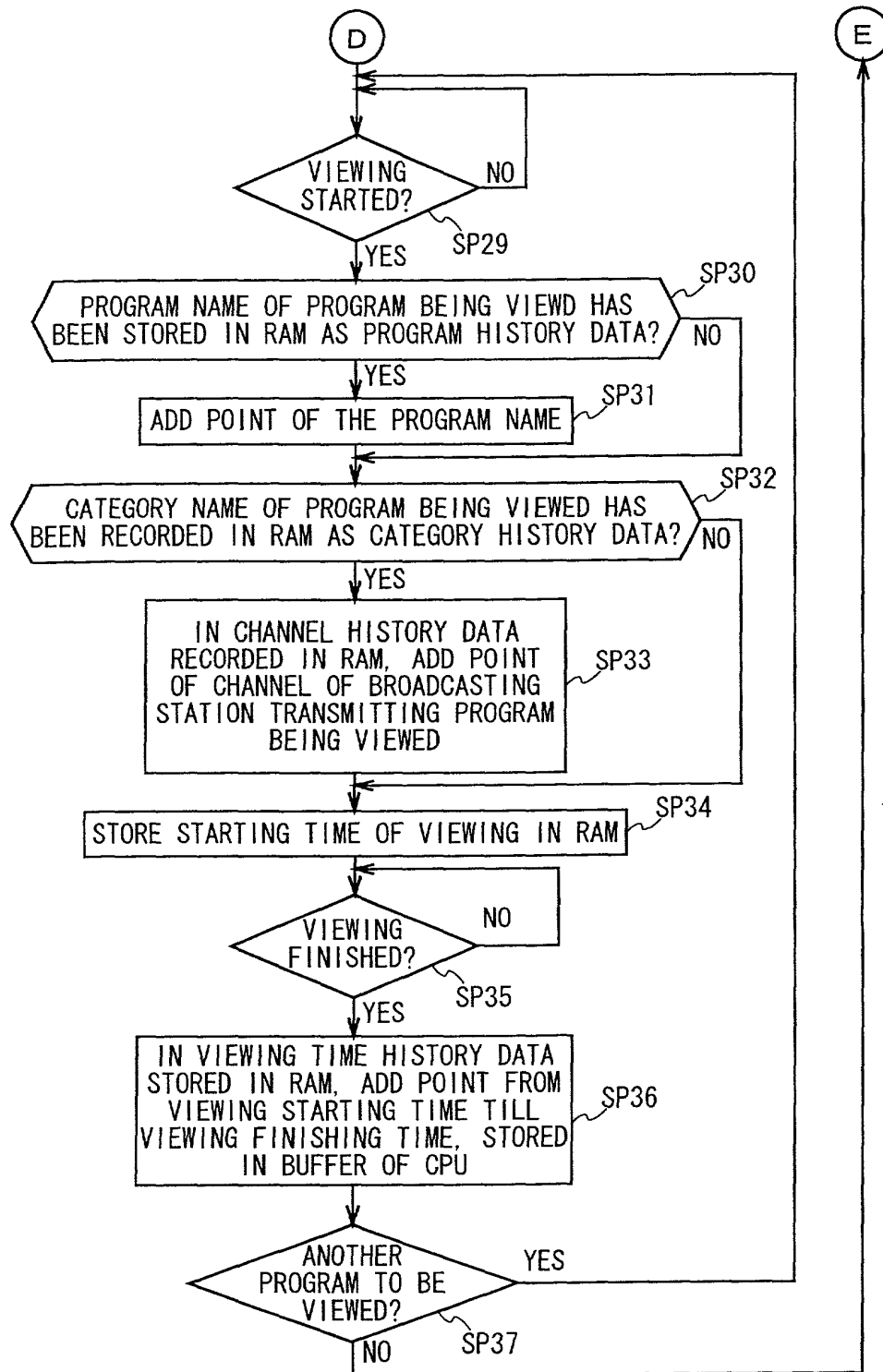


FIG. 6

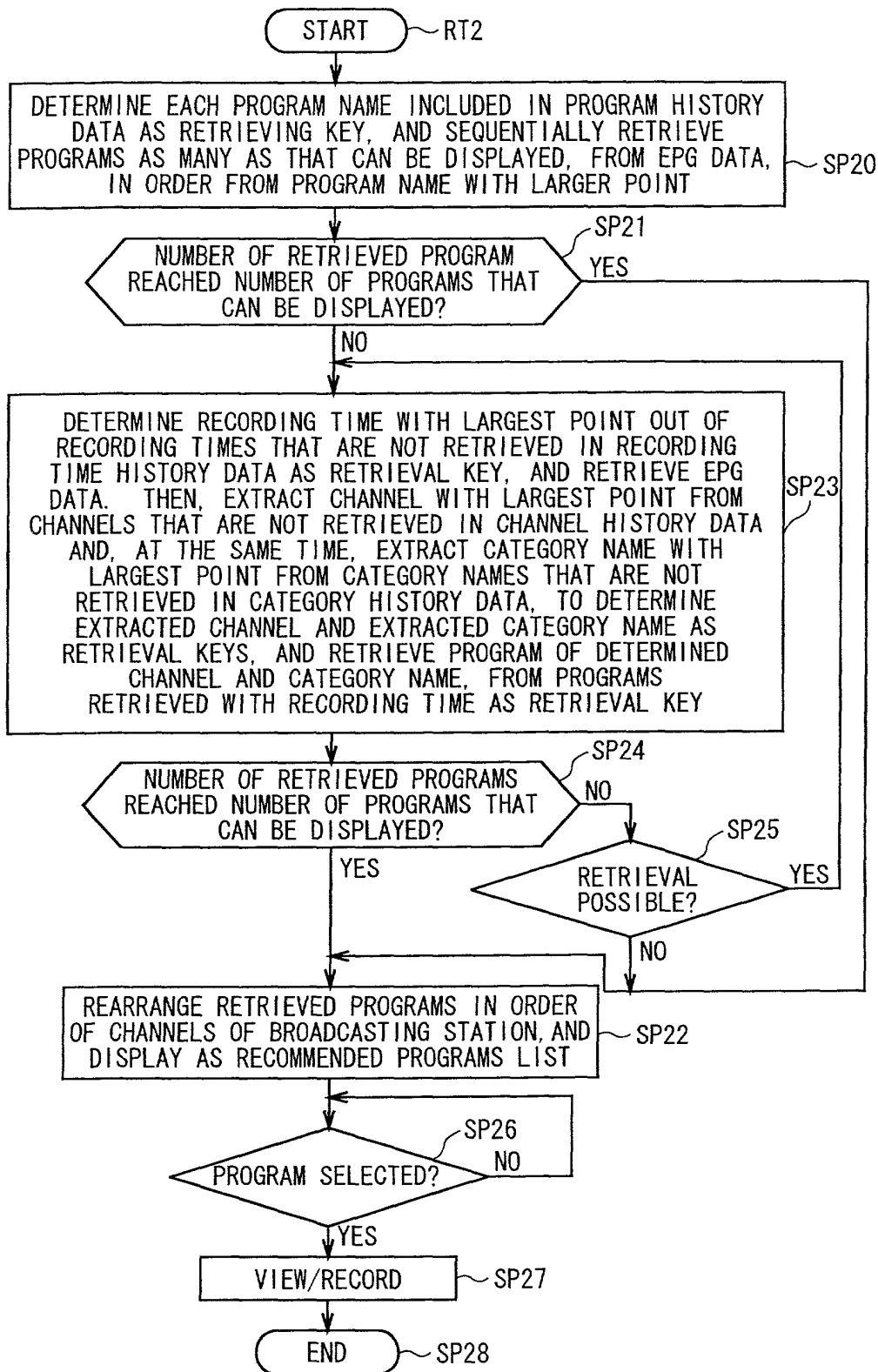


FIG. 7

NOW ON AIR			20-Jan. Fri. 7:34PM		
△					
ABC	Three Guys and a Girl	Drama			
CBS	Welcome to Chicago	Show			
NBC	Online NBC	News			
FOX	Figure Skating	Sports			
UPN	Boyfriends	Drama			
▽					
			Boyfriends : 7:00-7:45		
			Fried Turkey: When her friends can't make it to her Thanksgiving dinner, Jodie invites a high-profile attorney instead. Executive producer Sandy Grammer guest stars. ▽		

FIG. 8

09/890260

TODAY'S RECOMMENDATION			
			20-Jan. Fri. 7:34PM
◀ 9:00-11:00 PM ▶		△	
9:15-	ABC	Three Guys and a Girl	Drama
9:30-	CBS	Welcome to Chicago	Show
9:30-	NBC	Online NBC	News
10:00-	FOX	Figure Skating	Sports
10:45-	UPN	Boyfriends	Drama
		▽	
<div> <p>Boyfriends : 7:00-7:45</p> <p>Fried Turkey: When her friends can't make it to her Thanksgiving dinner, Jodie invites a high-profile attorney instead. Executive producer Sandy Grammer guest stars. ▽</p> </div>			

FIG. 9

<RECOMMENDED PROGRAM>

DRAMA

Over Today 2/15 21:00-21:54 8ch

EMERGENCY HOSPITAL 2/16 21:00-21:54 8ch

MUSIC

Music book 2/19 20:00-21:00 10ch

Music out 2/20 23:00-23:30 8ch

FIG. 10

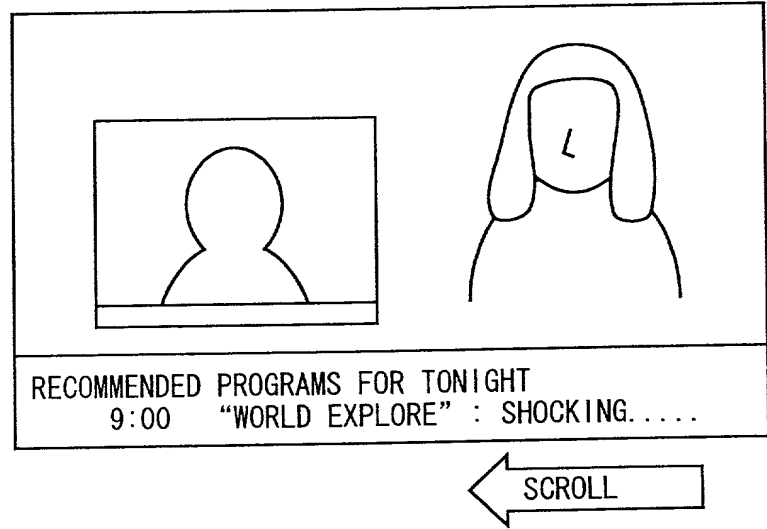


FIG. 11

Explanation of Reference Numerals

1...analog ground wave broadcasting system, 2...transmitting apparatus, 4...relay apparatus, 5...IRD, 7...remote commander, 8...monitor, 8A...display screen, 10...remote commander receiving section, 11...CPU, 12...ROM, 13...RAM, 15...tuner, 16...audio processing section, 17...video processing section, 18...multiplexing/separating section, 19...audio decoder, 20...video decoder, 21...D/A converter, 22...RGB encoder, 25...VBI slicer, 30...recording media section, 31...flash memory.

Japanese Language Declaration
(日本語宣言書)

私は、米国法典第35編119条 (a) - (d) 項又は365条 (b) 項に基づき下記の、米国以外の国の少なくとも一カ国を指定している特許協力条約365 (a) 項に基づく国際出願、又は外国での特許出願もしくは発明者証の出願についての外国優先権をここに主張するとともに、優先権を主張している、本出願の前に出願された特許または発明者証の外国出願を以下に、枠内をマークすることで、示しています。

Prior Foreign Application(s)
外国での先行出願

<u>11/348119</u>	<u>JAPAN</u>
(Number) (番号)	(Country) (国名)
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
(Number) (番号)	(Country) (国名)

私は、第35編米国法典119条 (e) 項に基づいて下記の米国特許出願規定に記載された権利をここに主張いたします。

<u> </u>	<u> </u>
(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)

私は、下記の米国法典第35編120条に基づいて下記の米国特許出願に記載された権利、又は米国を指定している特許協力条約365条 (c) に基づく権利をここに主張します。また、本出願の各請求範囲の内容が米国法典第35編112条第1項又は特許協力条約で規定された方法で先行する米国特許出願に開示されていない限り、その先行米国出願書提出日以降で本出願書の日本国内または特許協力条約国際提出日までの期間中に入手された、連邦規則法典第37編1条56項で定義された特許資格の有無に関する重要な情報について開示義務があることを認識しています。

<u>PCT/JP00/08577</u>	<u>4 December 2000</u>
(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)

<u> </u>	<u> </u>
(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)

私は、私自信の知識に基づいて本宣言書中で私が行なう表明が真実であり、かつ私の入手した情報と私の信じているところに基づく表明が全て真実であると信じていること、さらに故意になされた虚偽の表明及びそれと同等の行為は米国法典第18編第1001条に基づき、罰金または拘禁、もしくはその両方により処罰されること、そしてそのような故意による虚偽の声明を行なえば、出願した、又は既に許可された特許の有効性が失われることを認識し、よってここに上記のごとく宣誓を致します。

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 (a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

	Priority Claimed 優先権主張
<u>7 December 1999</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
(Day/Month/Year Filed) (出願年月日)	Yes No はい いいえ
<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
(Day/Month/Year Filed) (出願年月日)	Yes No はい いいえ

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

<u> </u>	<u> </u>
(Application No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s), or Section 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of application.

<u> </u>
(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned) (現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)

<u> </u>
(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned) (現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

特許出願宣言書及び委任状

Japanese Language Declaration

日本語宣言書

下記の氏名の発明者として、私は以下の通り宣言します。

私の住所、私書箱、国籍は下記の私の氏名の後に記載された通りです。

下記の名称の発明に関して請求範囲に記載され、特許出願している発明内容について、私が最初かつ唯一の発明者（下記の氏名が一つの場合）もしくは最初かつ共同発明者（下記の名称が複数の場合）であると信じています。

上記発明の明細書は、

- ☐ 本書に添付されています。
- ☐ ____月____日に提出され、米国出願番号または特許協定条約国際出願番号を____とし、
(該当する場合) ____に訂正されました。

私は、特許請求範囲を含む上記訂正後の明細書を検討し、内容を理解していることをここに表明します。

私は、連邦規則法典第37編第1条56項に定義されるとおり、特許資格の有無について重要な情報を開示する義務があることを認めます。

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled.

INFORMATION SEARCHING DEVICE, INFORMATION
RECEIVER, AND METHODS THEREFOR

(as amended)

the specification of which

- ☐ is attached hereto.
- ☒ was filed on 4 December 2000
as United States Application Number or
PCT International Application Number
PCT/JP00/08577 and was amended on
____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

Japanese Language Declaration
(日本語宣言書)

委任状：私は下記の発明者として、本出願に関する一切の手続きを米特許商標局に対して遂行する弁理士または代理人として、下記の者を指名いたします。
(弁理士、または代理人の指名及び登録番号を明記のこと)

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: (list name and registration number)



022850

書類送付先

Send Correspondence to:



022850

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発明者の署名 日付	Inventor's signature Date Aki Koyabu Jul. 9, 2001
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郵便の宛先	Post Office Address same as above
第二の共同発明者の氏名	Full name of second joint inventor, if any Mitsuru NAGASAKA
第二の共同発明者の署名 日付	Second joint Inventor's signature Date Mitsuru Nagasaka Jul. 12, 2001
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郵便の宛先	Post Office Address same as above

(第三以降の共同発明者についても同様に記載し、署名すること)

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)

Japanese Language Declaration

(日本語宣言書)

第三の共同発明者の氏名	3rd	Full name of third joint inventor, if any Tomoko OYABU
第三の共同発明者の署名	日付	Third joint Inventor's signature Tomoko Oyabu Date Jul 25, 2001
住所		Residence C/O SONY Corporation, 7-35, Kitashinagawa 6-chome, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo
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第四の共同発明者の署名	日付	Fourth joint Inventor's signature Tomoko Terakado Date Jul 9, 2001
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第五の共同発明者の氏名		Full name of fifth joint inventor, if any
第五の共同発明者の署名	日付	Fifth joint Inventor's signature Date
住所		Residence
国籍		Citizenship
郵便の宛先		Post Office Address

第六の共同発明者の氏名		Full name of sixth joint inventor, if any
第六の共同発明者の署名	日付	Sixth joint Inventor's signature Date
住所		Residence
国籍		Citizenship
郵便の宛先		Post Office Address

(第六またはそれ以降の共同発明者に対しても同様な情報および署名を提供すること。)

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)